

LOS ANGELES MAY INCREASE SCHOOL TAX RATE TO \$2.30; 'TAKE' FROM TORRANCE GAINS

Torrance taxpayers, who are again this year required to pay the taxes levied by the Los Angeles City school district, received an extra "jolt" Monday night when the Los Angeles Board of Education adopted a budget of \$59,770,459, an increase of \$5,507,030 more than the budget of 1945-46, and calling for an additional tax rate of .275 per \$100 assessed valuation, exclusive of the recently voted school bonds.

Adding the estimated tax rate of 21 cents for the big bond issue, which Torrance rejected but for which it is obligated for its share for the time being, the increase in the tax rate for Torrance will be approximately .485 cents per \$100.

(Editor's note—While the schools claim the increase in taxes will be only a little more than 20 cents per \$100 assessed valuation, tax experts stand by their estimates as quoted above. Also, while the total tax rate for bonded indebtedness is 21 cents, the schools claim that the bonds will not be sold in full this year, and that the rate charged this year will be much less than 21 cents. However, the 21 cents per \$100 is quoted because that is what the taxpayer ultimately will have to pay each year for the retirement of the \$75,000,000 school bond issue voted June 4.)

The new tax rate would represent a gain of approximately \$2,866 for this year. This would mean that Los Angeles would have to raise some \$484,386 in tax funds this year, in addition to state school support of more than \$205,000.

Los Angeles, on the basis of its budget adopted Monday night, would "take" on behalf of Torrance schools a total of \$689,386.00 this year.

Los Angeles will "spend" in operation of the Torrance schools approximately \$850,000.

The balance? Torrance will never see it again, much as it is needed for educational uses in Torrance.

(However, it will be stopped. Continued on Page 3-A)

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Clerks-Chain Store Dispute Ends; Penney, Newberry Reopening in Torrance Soon

Unification Of Services And Utilities Asked

Formation of a Torrance City school district, as provided in the City Charter to be voted on by the people on Aug. 20, will be the first step in unification of all services and utilities, according to the announced intention of the City Council.

Fiscal service in the outer sections of Torrance now is divided between some six post offices, Torrance, Lomita, Gardena, Moneta, Redondo Beach and Welteria. This service should be unified so that all mail comes through and is distributed by the Torrance post office. It is proposed that delay of several days in delivery of mail from one part of Torrance to another is experienced under the present system, and this is experienced especially in North Torrance.

Telephone service within Torrance is spread out over Torrance, Lomita, Redondo Beach and Gardena exchanges, and this results in needless costly expense, it is pointed out, and it is hoped that the centralization of this service for convenience of the people of Torrance can be brought about before the new dial system is installed in Torrance.

Formation of two big water districts to provide for the needs of vast undeveloped and developed areas of North and South Torrance, now is in progress.

As the various schools of Torrance are brought under the control of the people of Torrance, sponsors of the unification movement say, the many public utility services likewise should be centralized.

Reopening of the nine retail stores operated in Torrance, San Pedro and Wilmington by the J. C. Penney Co., J. J. Newberry Co., F. W. Woolworth Co., and S. H. Kress and Co., was assured yesterday when a new working agreement was signed by representatives of management and the clerks' union.

Absentee Voters May Get Ballots From Aug. 1 to 15

Voters of Torrance who contemplate being away from the city on election day, August 20, may apply for absentee ballots from Aug. 1 to Aug. 15, according to City Clerk A. H. Bartlett.

The election of Aug. 20 will carry the proposition of the adoption of the City Charter and the bond issue proposed by the City Council, divided into seven propositions.

1000 PORTABLE BLEACHERS BOUGHT FOR BALL PARK

The City Council Tuesday night ordered the purchase of 1000 portable bleacher seats for the Torrance ball park. The seats to cost \$1775.81, will aid in caring for crowds expected for the Southern California Baseball Tournament which will feature 30 straight nights of elimination play to a championship, starting Aug. 8.

RED TOP CABS AUTHORIZED FOR CITY TAXI CO.

City Taxi Company was authorized to operate "red top" cabs in Torrance by the City Council Tuesday night. Also, the company was granted a permit to place a taxi stand on the vacant lot at Gramercy avenue, at the terminal of Torrance Municipal bus lines.



AGREEMENT TO REOPEN STORES SIGNED... Shown signing the working contract which will clear the way for reopening of the J. C. Penney Co. and J. J. Newberry Co. stores in Torrance, San Pedro and Wilmington is Haskell Tidwell, secretary of the Retail Clerks Local 905. Also seated (at right) is J. J. Newberry, representative of the four chain store organizations; and (left) Walter G. Hooke, employee relations representative of the West Coast of S. H. Kress & Co. Standing (left to right): Grover C. Whyte, publisher, Torrance Herald; William Shea, publisher, San Pedro News-Pilot; and Edwin B. Brown, business manager of the Torrance Herald, who headed the newspaper group in conducting negotiations which led to the settlement of the 10-months-old dispute. The picture above was taken in the office of Publisher Whyte of the Torrance Herald yesterday morning. (Torrance Herald photo).

Federal Roads Official Due On Airport Deal

Assurance that the Federal Works Agency, Public Roads Administration, Washington, is anxious to have Torrance operate the army's flight strip on 101 highway was contained in a letter to Mayor J. Hugh Sherkey Jr., from Thomas H. McDonald, commissioner of public roads.

McDonald said that C. C. Morris, division engineer for the public roads administration in San Francisco, is to call on the Mayor in regard to the effort to secure the airport for municipal operation.

Likewise, it is said that Major General Fleming, federal works agency administrator, also is en route to the coast to inquire into the proceedings and aid in the transfer of the airport from the public roads department and the War Assets Administration to the City of Torrance.

"You may be assured that we wish to cooperate with you so that the City of Torrance may proceed with the construction of a municipal airport," McDonald told Mayor Sherkey.

Public roads administration has granted Torrance a three-year revocable permit to use the 89.9 acres of the flight strip itself, but the city is endeavoring to get control of the entire 480-odd acres before accepting any part of the airport.

Machinery Set Up For Election On August 20 For Charter, Bond Issue

Legal machinery for the city election of Aug. 20 was completed Tuesday night by the City Council. Resolution No. 1787 was adopted placing the City Charter, which provides for setting up of the Torrance Board of Education and school system controlled by Torrance, on the ballot, combining it with the bond election.

Assessment Figures On Water Due

Proceedings for the election were provided in Ordinance No. 370 which was adopted for final reading. Vigorous campaigns are being conducted both in behalf of the charter and the bond elections. The City Charter Committee, headed by Howard A. Wood, M. D., and consisting of James A. Lynch, Carl Steele, Mrs. Miss Shilder, and Mrs. Mark Wright are making fine progress in organization of precincts, planning public meetings, mail contacts with the voters and organizations of sub-committees in various sections of the city.

"We are elated at the widespread popularity of the charter movement," Lynch, vice-chairman, said. "The people want better schools, and they already are paying for the best. That \$300,000 a year Los Angeles is taking from Torrance is needed in Torrance, and the people intend to get it through adoption of the City Charter and organizing our own school system. The Los Angeles school tax rate this year, which we will have to pay, may be as high as \$2.30 per \$100 assessed valuation. That, plus the state aid taken on Torrance average daily attendance, would give Los Angeles nearly \$700,000 this year for Torrance schools. They will spend only half of that operating our schools. We want this (Continued on Page 3-A)

The patience of the North Torrance people on the matter of securing assessed valuation figures is to be commended, the mayor pointed out. The figures have just been compiled in the office of the county assessor and they will be broken down to a point where they can be used in forming the new district the first part of next month.

Los Angeles Schools' Failure To Teach Fundamentals Is Charged

Many inquiries have come into the office of the Torrance Charter Committee asking for the report on the Los Angeles city schools' failure to adequately prepare students for college or vocational careers, and at the request of the committee, the Torrance Herald is reprinting the article published in the Examiner, Los Angeles, on June 28, 1946, entitled "Los Angeles Students Weak on Three R's, Report Shows."

The article follows: Although their intelligence is rated above the national average, youngsters in Los Angeles public schools are lagging woefully behind children in other cities in knowledge of the fundamentals of learning.

This startling disclosure was made at the Board of Education yesterday in a report containing results of a city wide test here with those obtained in other cities in the basic subjects of arithmetic, spelling, reading and language. Given last fall among 86,000 pupils in the primary and high school grades, the test revealed that as the average Los Angeles youngster moves up through the grades his knowledge of the fundamentals actually declines! BASIC SKILLS—Entitled "An Evaluation of the Basic Skills," the report was delivered by Maurice G. Blain, a assistant superintendent in charge of curriculum, and Dr. Alfred S. Lewrenz, head supervisor of the recently-created evaluation section. The first evaluation ever made of Los Angeles public school fundamentals, it was conducted at certain representative grades including pupils in B grades (Continued on Page 4-A)



FAMED FLIER RESIDENT

A new resident of Torrance is Col. Roger C. Williams, A.C., famous for his 1927 New York to Rome flight and for his contributions to aviation in the past 20 years. He decided to complete the publication of a book on aviation. The colonel is on terminal leave from the Army Transport Command, having served until recently as executive officer of the Alaskan division of the ATC. (Torrance Herald photo)

Population Of Torrance Now 18,979, Estimate

Population of the City of Torrance now is estimated at 18,979, according to City Clerk A. H. Bartlett who yesterday released figures on the registration of voters of city precincts.

The clerk said that the registered voter strength of Torrance now is 5,423, a gain of nearly 500 over that of the last general election. Torrance figures its population on a basis of three and one-half persons to each registration, and in this manner the population estimate of 18,979 was reached.

Heaviest local precincts are No. 1, with 372 voters, in North Torrance; No. 2, with 364 in the Vista Highlands area, and No. 12, with 369, in Welteria.

Teachers Fail In Job, Says Tax Expert

On the basis of the Los Angeles Board of Education's own evaluation of pupils' knowledge of "basic skills," a challenge Monday was hurled at proposed salary increases for Los Angeles teachers.

The challenge came from William A. Pixley, managing director of the Property Owners' Association of California, Inc. Referring to the board's report, "An Evaluation of the Basic Skills," Pixley said: "The vital part of it is that Los Angeles pupils, on the basis of tests conducted by your own staff, are shown to be materially behind pupils in other parts of the country in their understanding and learning of basic skills and fundamental studies—reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic."

"And this is true despite the assertion that Los Angeles children have a higher intelligence quotient and thus should be ahead of the other pupils."

"The only conclusion from your report is that Los Angeles teachers are failing in their job. Elizabeth Sands, your superintendent of junior high schools, told you at the time this report was presented: 'Teachers coming into our secondary schools are not trained to teach the fundamentals and we have too few of the so-called old-fashioned teachers in our elementary grades who are grounded in plain, solid pedagogy.' Pixley asserted that Los Angeles elementary and junior high school teachers rated behind only New York in pay, and that only New York and St. Louis paid senior high school teachers more. Then referring to three (Continued on Page 4-A)

Questions & Answers About Your Schools

VOTE "YES" ON CHARTER AUGUST 20

QUESTION: Will the City Council have anything to do with the Torrance Board of Education?

ANSWER: No. Boards of Education are entirely separated from city government. They are separate subdivisions operating under the Education Code. The Board of Education will be elected on a separate ballot, will appoint its own officers, clerk, treasurer, teachers, civil service help and administrators. The Board of Education is an independent body, functioning under the close supervision of the County Board of Education and the State Department of Education.

QUESTION: How are Boards of Education elected?

ANSWER: Provided by the Education Code, the candidate may submit to the County Board of Education a statement of candidacy signed by himself, or in lieu thereof, with his consent, a written declaration signed by from three to ten parents who are voters of the district. His or her name is then placed on the ballot together with those of other candidates, and the five candidates receiving the highest number of votes win election. Write-in privileges are guaranteed voters as provided by law.

QUESTION: Why is it that our athletic teams at Torrance high school seem always to be running out of equipment, balls, bats, track shoes and other items?

ANSWER: That is a question for the Los Angeles Board of Education to answer. We certainly pay them enough for the equipment. With the \$300,000 or so a year we give them over and above what they spend here, we should have the best and the most of everything, including a separate boys' gymnasium, industrial shops, a cafeteria, etc.

QUESTION: Where will be obtained text books for our schools when we start our own Torrance schools?

ANSWER: From the State Board of Education, as do all Boards of Education. Education of our children is a prime function of state government and it should be of local government. Books are provided by the state.

QUESTION: What are the Civil Service provisions of the City Charter as they apply both to city workers and to school employees?

ANSWER: The Civil Service rights and the status of city employees remain the same under the charter. Rights of workers in their present employment are guaranteed as the present ordinances are made a part of the charter. As for school employees, Civil Service rights in Torrance will be established and the teachers will be subject to the tenure law, and provided with the protection of the state retirement plan for teachers.

QUESTION: Los Angeles city schools having the use of twice as much money, raised in or on behalf of Torrance, as is spent here, why is it that the high school grounds are allowed to be so unsightly, particularly along Watson ave. and Plaza del Amo?

ANSWER: That is something the neighbors would like to know. It is just one example of the neglect by Los Angeles of the Torrance schools.

QUESTION: How will the Perry elementary school district

L. A. School Board Failed To Reach Understanding With Torrance People

Commenting upon a statement of State Superintendent of Public Instruction Roy E. Simpson that building of public confidence in the schools should be one of the prime objectives of educators, James L. Lynch, vice chairman of the Torrance Charter Committee, declared that Los Angeles city school system had failed over a period of many years to attempt to reach an understanding with the people of Torrance, and that their outright neglect of the schools, failure to spend money in Torrance raised for Torrance schools, and belligerent attitude toward the wishes of the community is responsible for the move now coming to a head by which Torrance will establish its own independent school system.

"The only time we ever see a member of the Los Angeles Board of Education in a few weeks before school board elections," Lynch said, "then the superintendent or perhaps a candidate for reelection will rub elbows for a night at Rotary club, and they are gone for another four years. We, the people of Torrance, are a \$30,000,000 corporation, and by the failure of Los Angeles to give our children and our taxpayers their just (Continued on Page 4-A)

Torrance Weather Record

Official U. S. Weather Bureau			
TEMPERATURE			
	Maxi.	Mini.	
July			
10	77	61	
11	74	60	
12	71	60	
13	80	59	
14	82	57	
15	80	57	
16	79	54	

THE CITIZEN AND THE SCHOOLS

(Editor's note: The support of the community to the City Charter movement on the special election ballot of Aug. 20, by which Torrance will secure control of the schools of Torrance, is being expressed in many ways, and we feel obligated to our readers to quote statements made on the subject from citizens in all walks of life. They are quoted briefly in the following paragraphs.)

Mrs. Helen Miller, president Torrance Relief Society:

"I am very much in favor of the (City Charter) plan and I am sure many people in Torrance are. I am just seeing the light. I am sure this is something we have needed for a long time. I have lived here for 27 years and I believe after all that time we should be grown up and able to take care of our own affairs. I will do all I can." Mrs. Miller also is chairman of the Torrance branch of the American Red Cross.

Mrs. Helen G. Salover, past president Torrance High School Parent-Teacher Association:

"While I am still an officer of the Parent-Teacher association of the high school, and the P.T.A. is forbidden by its constitution and by-laws from participating in school or community subjects of controversial nature as an organization, I feel that I am within my constitutional rights to voice my opinion on this matter and to work for its success at the polls. I feel that children of Torrance are entitled to the best in schools and as we are paying for the best, we should have it—and stop the unwilling donation of Torrance each year of hundreds of thousands of dollars to Los Angeles. We need this money for our own children's welfare and this is the only way we will be able to secure this end. We have some wonderful teachers and administrators in the schools here, but I am sure that even they realize the fallacy of the situation as it is today. This matter should be brought to a head and settled now, and I am the good of our children working for an overwhelming 'yes' vote on the charter."

Mr. Benjamin chairman of the Torrance Y.M.C.A. board: "It is a healthy situation when our democratic right of personal expression is requested on such a controversial subject as establishing an adequate school system. Personally, I feel that it is a much needed enterprise and will welcome the opportunity to place my vote in favor of building the type of educational system that justifies genuine community pride." (Continued on Page 4-A)